

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims to read as indicated below.

1. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe which scans a subject with beams of ultrasound transmitted by a moving transducer comprising:

a fluid-filled chamber having a main compartment in which the transducer is movably mounted;

a secondary compartment of the fluid-filled chamber having an interior surface which conducts bubbles away from a fluid-filled passageway connecting the main and secondary compartments when the probe is held in a given orientation,

wherein the passageway connecting the main and secondary compartments is accessed at a point ~~of~~ in the main compartment to which bubbles are designed to flow when the probe is held in the given orientation; and

a drive mechanism extending into the fluid-filled chamber which supplies a motive force for the transducer, the drive mechanism passing through a ~~second drive mechanism~~ passageway connecting the main and secondary compartments and terminating in the main compartment of the fluid-filled chamber.

2. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 1, wherein the drive mechanism further comprises a drive shaft.

3. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 2, further comprising a motor, located outside the fluid-filled chamber and coupled to the drive shaft for oscillating or rotating the drive shaft.

4. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 2, further comprising a secondary seal by which the drive shaft passes from outside the fluid-filled chamber into the secondary

compartment, and a primary seal by which the drive shaft passes from the secondary compartment to the main compartment.

5. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 4, wherein the seals comprise dynamic seals permitting drive shaft motion.

6. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 5, further comprising fluid located on both sides of the primary seal and fluid located on only one side of the secondary seal, wherein leakage of the secondary seal may admit air into the secondary compartment.

7. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 1, wherein the fluid-filled passageway further comprises a bubble trap tube.

8. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 7, wherein the bubble trap tube further comprises a tube extending from a wall dividing the main and secondary compartments into the secondary compartment.

9. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 1, wherein the transducer comprises an array transducer which may be controlled to electronically steer beams over a planar region, wherein motion of the array transducer causes the beams to be swept over a volumetric region.

10. (currently amended) The ultrasound probe of Claim 9, wherein the transducer is movably mounted on a pivoting mechanism which permits the array transducer to be oscillated back and forth in ~~the~~an elevation direction, wherein oscillation of the pivoting mechanism is motivated by the drive mechanism.

11. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 10, wherein the drive mechanism further comprises a drive shaft connected to the pivoting mechanism by a gear mechanism.

12. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 9, wherein the fluid-filled chamber is enclosed by an acoustic window through which ultrasound beams are transmitted as the array transducer is moved.

13. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 12, further comprising a fluid-filled space located between the transmitting surface of the array transducer and the acoustic window as the array transducer is moved.

14. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe which scans a subject with beams of ultrasound transmitted by a moving transducer comprising:

- a fluid-filled chamber having a main compartment in which the transducer is movably mounted;

- a secondary compartment of the fluid-filled chamber;

- a wall separating the main and secondary compartments which is sloped to an uppermost location;

- a fluid-filled passageway located at ~~the~~an uppermost location in the main compartment and connecting the main and secondary compartments; and

- a drive mechanism extending through a ~~second~~drive mechanism passageway of the wall and terminating in the main compartment which supplies a motive force for the transducer,

- wherein the main compartment exhibits an interior surface which promotes the travel of bubbles in the main compartment toward the fluid-filled passageway when the probe is held in a given orientation, and wherein the secondary compartment exhibits an interior surface which promotes the travel of

bubbles in the secondary compartment away from the fluid-filled passageway when the probe is held in the given orientation.

15. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 14, wherein the fluid-filled passageway is located at or near the center of the fluid-filled chamber.

16. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 14, wherein the fluid-filled passageway further comprises a bubble trap tube.

17. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 14, wherein the transducer comprises an array transducer which may be controlled to electronically steer beams over a planar region, wherein motion of the array transducer causes the beams to be swept over a volumetric region.

18. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 14, wherein the drive mechanism is coupled to a motor located outside the fluid-filled chamber.

19. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 18, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a drive shaft.

20. (original) The ultrasound probe of Claim 19, wherein the drive mechanism further comprises a gear mechanism.